



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE
5701 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD
NORTON, VIRGINIA 24273
FEMA-1411-DR-VA
Commonwealth Situation Report #3
Wednesday, 8 May 2002**

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

1200 hours 7 May 2002 through 1200 hours 8 May 2002. (New information in italics)

2. SITUATION:

On the evening of 28 April a severe weather system entered Virginia from the west and, once across the Blue Ridge Mountains, developed into a series of tornadoes. Local declarations of emergencies were declared in Bedford City, and Bedford, Campbell, Greenville, and Shenandoah counties. On 2 May 2002, continuing severe weather impacted Virginia. Wind, rain and flood damage was again widespread with the most severe damage occurring in the southwest part of the state. In Buchanan County, heaviest damage was northeast of Grundy in the vicinity of Hurley, and was due to flash flooding and mudslides. Damaging floodwaters and strong winds also impacted nearby Tazewell County.

Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City and the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Shenandoah, and Greenville on 28 April 2002.

On 2 May 2002, Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth in response to the tornado damage on 28 April 2002. On 3 May 2002 the declaration was expanded to include the areas affected by the storms of 2 May.

Local emergencies were declared in Buchanan County and Tazewell County on 2 May 2002.

On 3 May 2002, Governor Warner requested that President Bush declare a major disaster for Bedford, Campbell, Greenville, Shenandoah, Buchanan, Tazewell, Cumberland, and Prince Edward counties and for the cities of Colonial Heights and Bedford.

On 5 May 2002, President Bush declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Virginia in FEMA 1411-DR-VA in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties for Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation. *Functions at the Wise DFO established in a prior declared disaster, DR-1406-VA, have been expanded to include operations for DR-1411-VA. The DFO hours of operation are 0800 hrs to 1630 hrs Monday*

through Saturday. The DFO will continue to be closed on Sundays. Situation Reports will be published daily.

In the flash flooding event in Hurley, Virginia, two deaths are confirmed, 0 missing. There have been 6 work related injuries reported. *Power has been restored to approximately 75 percent of the Hurley area.* Telephone service has been partially restored. Buchanan County schools have reopened but schools in Hurley will remain closed until further notice.

State agencies and other representatives on the scene include: Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Army National Guard (ANG), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Army Corps of Engineers, American Red Cross (ARC), and Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VVOAD), including the clean up crews from the Presbyterians, the Mennonites, the Methodists, and Baptist Disaster Services .

3. WEATHER:

Wednesday: Flood Watch in effect for Buchanan and Dickenson Counties until 2000 hrs. Heavy rains could create flooding and flash flooding on streams and creeks in the watch area; greatest threat exists in the afternoon. Thursday: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 50s. West winds 10-15 mph. Chance of rain 50 percent.

4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- A. Determine DRC Locations.
- B. Continue to process PDA data.
- C. Complete FEMA-State Agreement.
- D. Prepare for visit of Region III Director.
- E. Assess request for Public Assistance.
- F. Assess housing needs and availability
- G. Complete PDA's for Virginia due to tornadoes from 28 April 2002.

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:

A. Individual Assistance (IA):

- The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is located at the Hurley Elementary and Middle School on Route 643, in Hurley, Virginia. Official operations commenced at 0800, Tuesday, 7 May 2002. Hours of operation are 0800 to 1600 hrs daily until further notice.
- Residents *requiring disaster assistance* are being referred to the FEMA teleregistration number, 1-800-621-3362, TTY 1-800-462-7585. These numbers are staffed 7 days a week, 0700 to 1900 hrs.
- Red Cross is distributing meals prepared by the Virginia Baptists. Red Cross Family Services staff is *temporarily* located at the *DRC site in Hurley* as of 8 May and is fielding outreach service teams in the area.
- The Regional Health Department has administered 658 tetanus shots to residents and workers at the Hurley Middle School.
- Food and water is being distributed at the school.
- The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) is helping Buchanan County find housing for victims.

- The Virginia Health Department continues its “boil water” advisory and is providing information on the way to restart wells.
- Six pallets of 1260 gals of potable water were delivered to Hurley for distribution on 6 May.
- Donations are being received at the Hurley Middle School. Cash donations are being accepted by the Clinch Independent Living Services, PO Box 2741 in Grundy, Virginia 24614. Requested items include cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, diapers, food, rakes and shovels, and work gloves.
- *A total of 467 (210 since last report) individual teleregistration applications and 13 HELPLINE calls have been received.*
- *A total of 412 (+188 since last report) Disaster Housing Program registrations have been received, 7 (+7 since last report) have been approved, 405 (+405 since last report) are pending, and the approved eligible amount is \$13,583 (+\$13,583 since last report).*
- *No assistance checks have been issued to Disaster Housing Program applicants at this time.*
- *A total of 217 (+99 since last report) Individual and Family Grant program (IFG) registrations have been received. No registrations have been received by the state and no checks have been disbursed to date.*
- *No Small Business Administration (SBA) applications have been issued or received.*
- *Contact has been made with Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) requesting confirmation of Request for DUA and press release coordination.*
- *The Virginia Bar Association has activated a toll-free Disaster Legal Services Number, 1-800-552-7977, to provide emergency legal services to disaster victims.*
- *Virginia Department of Social Services has initiated steps toward having the USDA make available Disaster Food Stamps.*
- *A phone bank has been established to coordinate volunteer groups offering assistance. Volunteers can call 1-276-935-7419; identify nature of call, what services they wish to perform, and a callback number.*

B. Public Assistance (PA)

- A formal request for federal Public Assistance has been made.
- The National Guard is providing emergency debris clearance in the Hurley area.
- *Recovery Times being updated for Tazewell and Buchanan Counties with availability expected 10 May.*

C. Community Relations (CR):

- Two (2) VDEM Regional Coordinators are deployed in the Hurley community.
- *Two (2) FEMA Field Officers are deployed, one each in Tazewell County and in the Hurley community.*
- *VDEM “Flood Recovery Bulletins”, 1-800 and DRC flyers are being distributed throughout affected areas in Buchanan County.*
- *Audiotapes of disaster assistance information are being distributed by FEMA Field Officers and VDEM Regional Coordinators and are available at the DRC in Hurley. Approximately 100 have been distributed and another 100 are expected to be available by 9 May.*
- A temporary Post Office for Hurley will be set up in Blakely at the Blakely

Teen Center and is scheduled to open Friday, 10 May 2002. Postal authority advises that Social Security checks saved from the flood will be distributed at that time. All mail gathering in Grundy will be distributed at the temporary facility. Mail to Hurley residents should use the normal Hurley address.

D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):

- State Hazard Mitigation staff is scheduled to view Hurley area *no earlier than 10 May*.
- Requested a copy of the Army Corps of Engineers study of the Buchanan County flood plains from the Huntington District.
- *Substantial Damage Instructions will be provided to building inspectors working in Buchanan County.*

E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):

- Public Affairs press releases on the DRC opening in Hurley and the scheduling of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) workshops have been issued.

F. Legislative Liaison:

- Governor Mark Warner, US Senator George Allen, State Senator Phil Puckett and State Delegate Jackie Stump visited disaster areas in central Virginia and in the community of Hurley in Buchanan County and Tazewell County on 6 May.
- *State legislators representing impacted districts are being apprised of ongoing FEMA/State disaster recovery operations.*

G. Hazardous Materials:

- Significant HazMat operations are ongoing in Buchanan County. HazMat Teams from Wise County, Giles County and City of Salem have been working since the beginning of the event. As of 7 May they had collected 10-20 lb. propane tanks, 10-100 lb. propane tanks, 10 large (100-500 lb.) propane tanks, 27-65 gal. drums, 3-275 gal. tanks, 7-550 gal. tanks, 2-1,000 gal. tanks, numerous 5-gal. containers, and miscellaneous pesticides. *Team members continue to walk the Knox and Right Fork Creeks in the Hurley area.* A HazMat command post has been established adjacent to the DRC in Hurley.

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8 May 2002

Michael M. Cline, SCO